

Employees of the County of Los Angeles have generously supported the annual March of Dimes WalkAmerica campaign, forming department teams of walkers and raising millions of dollars to fund research that is designed to curtail premature births and infant mortality. This is a voluntary, fundraising campaign conducted by County employees and department heads. Last year, more than \$290,000 was donated by County teams to March of Dimes WalkAmerica.

More importantly, a portion of the proceeds raised in 2005 was returned to the County in the form of grants to local medical facilities, including the Harbor-UCLA and LAC+USC Medical Centers, and local agencies such as Great Beginnings for Black Babies, Vision Y Compromiso and Expecting Fitness.

With the theme “Working Together, Walking Together,” the County’s 2006 March of Dimes WalkAmerica campaign is dedicated to continuing a tradition of giving and reclaiming the Top Public Sector trophy that was relinquished to the City of Los Angeles last year. County walkers will participate in March of Dimes WalkAmerica on Saturday, April 29, 8:00 a.m., in Griffith Park. A County team photo will take place at 7:30 a.m. County hospitals will conduct Med-Walks during May and June in support of the annual March of Dimes WalkAmerica campaign.

The County’s WalkAmerica effort also will feature a friendly competition among departments in two categories—family teams and individual walkers. On April 29, awards will be presented to the winning MOD coordinator(s) and department head(s) for the largest number of families and individual walkers signed up by the department.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____

In addition to the regular department fundraisers, the County's 2006 March of Dimes WalkAmerica drive will include three major partnerships with local sports teams--- Los Angeles Kings, Clippers and Dodgers. The Los Angeles Kings are offering discount tickets to hockey games on Tuesday and Thursday, March 14 and 16, against Phoenix and Dallas, respectively, while a similar offer is being made by the L.A. Clippers for the Friday, April 7 game against the Sacramento Kings.

"County Day at Dodger Stadium" is slated for Sunday, April 23. Chief Administrative Officer David E. Janssen will throw out the first pitch.

Another popular March of Dimes fundraising event, "Blue Jeans for Babies Days," returns for two days on Wednesday and Thursday, May 31 and June 1.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

1. Proclaim Saturday, April 29, 2006 as "County of L.A. March of Dimes WalkAmerica Day" in the County of Los Angeles;
2. Proclaim Wednesday, May 31, and Thursday, June 1, 2006 as "Blue Jeans for Babies Days" in the County of Los Angeles in support of the March of Dimes WalkAmerica campaign;
3. Waive parking fees in the amount of \$850 for 50 cars, excluding liability, for parking in Lot 14 at the Music Center for department coordinators attending the annual executive breakfast on Tuesday, March 7, to kickoff the County's annual March of Dimes WalkAmerica campaign;
4. Waive Countywide vendor fees in the amount of \$10,000, excluding liability, for fundraising activities in support of the 2006 March of Dimes WalkAmerica campaign;
5. Request that the Chief Administrative Office and the Internal Services Department provide the necessary support services;
6. Encourage all County employees and department heads to voluntarily participate in the County's 2006 March of Dimes WalkAmerica on April 29, which is a worthwhile effort to reduce premature births and infant mortality in the County.

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MDA:kblsc